

## **Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program Science Subcommittee (SSc)**

**14 December 2004 Meeting, 9:00 – 12:00 PM  
USFWS Osuna Office Conference Room, Albuquerque, NM**

### **Agenda for 14 December 2004:**

- Review and approval of notes from the previous SSc meeting
- Brief updates:
  - PMSc, InSC, and/or EC
  - The Long-Term Plan
  - PAP
  - Water quality RFP
- Problems and priority rankings for the RGSM - deep, in-channel refuge pools with HRS and WAMS
- Proposed agenda for next meeting

### **Review and Approval of Notes from the Previous SSc Meeting**

- Draft notes from the previous SSc meeting were reviewed, minor edits were highlighted for incorporating into a revision, and the updated notes approved for distribution.

### **Brief updates: PMSc, InSC, and/or EC**

- Development of the Program's Long-Term Plan by the Long-Term Plan Workgroup continues to progress; at this time no additional information is needed from the SSc.

### **PAP update**

- The PAP report is due the end of December.

### **Water quality FY 2005 RFP**

- Mike Marcus reported that he had received additional comments on the WQ RFP from Joel Lusk.
- Charles reported that Reclamation was also providing additional comments on the RFP.
- Each of the Reclamation comments were discussed and Mike was requested to include the SSc requested changes into the RFP, and then produce a memo to Reclamation documenting the SSc approach to addressing their concerns.
- Due to FY 2005 funding limitations, the SSc is placing the WQ RFP on hold until additional guidance is received from the PAP.
- Since three Program signatories (NMED and COE with UNM) are conducting 2005 WQ assessments along the MRG and the Program has funded an ongoing assessment of water quality risk to silvery minnows, these studies can all serve to help address needs for continuing refinements in the assessment of WQ during FY 2005, as well as help to refine any future needs for a Program WQ RFP.

### **Problems and Priorities for RGSM – deep, in-channel refuge pools**

- The balance of the meeting primarily focused on continuing the discussion occurring during the previous SSc and WAMS meetings of instream wetted refuge habitat to enhance RGSM survival and recovery potentials; today's discussions included members from the SSc, HRS, and WAMS, plus other interested representatives.
- Major points from that discussion were separately distributed to the meeting participants and the members of the three technical subcommittees.

- The discussion emphasized that this is an approach being considered to help the responsible parties meet ESA regulatory compliance, as well to enhance survival and recovery potentials for the silvery minnows
- It was noted that October surveys of the silvery minnow indicate an order of magnitude increase in the population in the Albuquerque reach from last year – reasons likely include the combination of stocking of young from the refugia and hatcheries, planting of salvaged minnows from drying downstream reaches, and improved natural recruitment.
- There was a discussion regarding the relationship of the loss of fish populations along the MRG and changes in land use, irrigation efficiencies, and water management along the reach.

**Proposed Agenda for 04 January 2004 SSc Meeting, 9:00 AM, FWS on Osuna in Albuquerque:**

- Review and approval of notes from the previous SSc meeting
- Brief updates:
  - PMSc, InSC, and/or EC
  - The Long-Term Plan
  - PAP
  - Fish Passage Workgroup
  - Water quality RFP
  - Perennial pools workgroup
- FY 2005 Program proposal review process and finalize TPECs
- Proposed agenda for next meeting

**Science Subcommittee  
14 December 2004 Meeting Attendees**

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